IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute the paragraph starting on page 5, line 3, and ending on line 13, with the following paragraph:

--The process is furthermore particularly suitable for the preparation of compounds of the general formula Ib:

$$H_{2m+1}C_m$$
-CHOH-CH(OR⁴)₂

where m is a number from 1 to 10, and R⁴ is as defined in formula II, and for whose preparation use is made of a compound of the general formula Vb:

$$\underline{H_{2m+1}C_m}$$
- $\underline{CH_2}$ - \underline{CHO} .